Thank you for your support!

Individuals & Landowners

Charles S. Adams
Lester Anderson
Jim and Chris Andrews
Laura A. Asmerville
Jason and Nina Bacon
Anonymous
Bruce and Michelle Bayliss
Mark and Nancy Benz
Robert Bernstein
Gregory Borah, Shoreham Carpentry Company
Susan Borg
Elissa Close and Christopher Brady
Deborah Brighton
E. Callie Brynn
Louise and David Brynn
Eugenie Doyle and Sam Burr, The Last Resort
Jeff Pratt and Kim Callahan
Peter Carothers
Paul and Sandal Cate
Bruce and Holly Catlin
Allen and Claudia Clark
John McNemey and Kim A. Clark
Russell and Gillian Comstock
Cassandra and Jonathan Corcoran
Emile and Diane Cote
Alan Couther
Trish Hanson & Luke Curtis
Matt Davis & Caitlin Cusack
Kinny Perot and Richard Capilanski
Don and Marty Dowski
Michael Katz and Mary Dodge
Kathleen Duclos
Karen Leuders and Jim Dumont
Ellen Force and Louis duPont
Rita and John Elder
Betsy Brigham & Bret Engstrom
Steve M. and Catharine Eustis
Richard Faesy, Energy Futures
Steve M. and Catherine Eustis
Betsy Brigham & Brett Engstrom
Ellen Spring and Louis duPont
Karen Leuders and Jim Dumont
Kathleen Duclos
Michael Katz and Mary Dodge
Don and Marty Dewees
Kinny Perot & Richard Czaplinski
2015 Annual Report

Vermont Family Forests has been advocating for forestry that puts forest ecosystem health first and, when appropriate, cultivates family forests for a variety of goods and services including recreation, maple sap production, wildlife habitat enhancement, and wood products. We call it family forestry. This 2015 annual report highlights some of the activities we’ve been involved in over the past year. We hope you enjoy reading it, and we thank you for supporting our work!

Flood Resiliency: another reason to focus on forest ecosystem health

To be resilient, forested catchments must have the capacity to slow, spread, and sink the flow from heavy storm events. The fifth edition of The Montréal Process: Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests (2015) confirmed that the quality and quantity of storm water flow regimes from forested areas are good indicators of overall forest ecosystem health.

Specifically, the Montréal Process report stated that forest ecosystems play a key role in regulating surface and groundwater flow. Moreover, forest management practices can significantly impact the quality of that flow, for better or worse. Water quality can be protected through appropriate management planning, use of Best Management Practices, and on-going monitoring.

In June 2015, Vermont Family Forests partnered with South Mountains Research and Consulting to develop a report for Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FP&R), entitled Enhancing Flood Resiliency of Vermont State Lands.

Corporate Sponsors

Coca-Cola Matching Gifts
International Business Machines
United Way of Addison County

Foundation & Public Agency Donors

Colby Hill Fund
Giwadland Community Fund
Lindthac Foundation
The University of Vermont
Vermont Community Foundation
Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation

2016 will mark the 20th year Vermont Family Forests has been advocating for forestry that puts forest ecosystem health first and, when appropriate, cultivates family forests for a variety of goods and services including recreation, maple sap production, wildlife habitat enhancement, and wood products. We call it family forestry. This 2015 annual report highlights some of the activities we’ve been involved in over the past year. We hope you enjoy reading it, and we thank you for supporting our work!

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2015 Projects

This year, Vermont Family Forests has been re-wilding, building community, educating, and celebrating the forest’s ecological functions, values, goods, and services from Essex to Weston, Bridport to Granville, and many points in between. We have been working more with the USDA-NRCS in 2015, resulting in rewilding projects ranging from stabilizing access to curbing invasive species. We hope to continue and increase this work in the coming year, striving always to cultivate meaningful relationships between landowners and their forests, support adaptive conservation between commoners and their water and wildlife commons, and celebrate forest bounty in every season.

VFF Research Associate Kristen Underwood and Tim Morton, stewardship forester with VT Forests, Parks and Recreation, assess a recent culvert installation for compliance with Vermont’s Acceptable Management Practices.

**rewild**
- Completed a UVA Conservation Lands plan and map for The Watershed Center’s 951 acres of upland forests and wetlands north of Plank Road in Bristol and New Haven.
- Completed conservation plans and maps on eight privately held parcels and worked on two commercial timber sales.
- Developed a “Hunting Permission Agreement” connecting safe, informed, ethical hunters and healthy, rewilding, resilient family forests.

**build community**
- Assisted the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in procuring wood for the Longboats boat-building program.
- Developed a new forest conservation plan for the Little Hogback Community Forest.
- Published the Enhancing Flood Resiliency of Vermont State Lands report (see cover story).

Students in VFF’s Hogback Community College course, “Soils of the Hogback Ecoregion,” compare soil pH findings at the Waterworks property in Bristol.

**educate & celebrate**
- Hogback Community College courses, including From Forest to Frame (taught by Will Gusakov and David Bryn with Paul Cate and Miles Jenness) and Forest Soils in the Hogback Ecoregion (taught by Wendy-Sue Harper).
- Game of Logging chainsaw training, levels I, II, and III (Storm Damage), in the spring and fall 2015, with more than 400 student hours “logged in.”
- Organized fifth annual Woodwinds the Middle Barn concert held at the Anderson’s Wells Farm in Lincoln.
- Leading sponsor of Bristol Best Night (BBN). A project of The Watershed Center, BBN gathers local performers to celebrate the Five Town Community on New Year’s Eve.
- Co-sponsored the annual Beltane celebration and Winter Solstice celebration at the 951-acre lands of The Watershed Center.

Participants in “From Forest to Frame,” a Hogback Community College course, share a laugh as they build the Forest Hut at the Watershed property in Bristol.

Dr. Chris Runcie of Starksboro joined the bird monitoring team in 2015. Kristen Underwood of Bristol, a PhD candidate in civil and environmental engineering, initiated the forest hydrology research in 2015. This year, Kristen completed a water quality monitoring plan for the Wells property. In 2016 she will complete a baseline hydrology research report, with on-site monitoring to begin in 2017.

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Lester C. Anderson departed from his Wells Farm in Lincoln, Vermont, on July 16, 2015. Lester was an accomplished photographer, a constant reader, and a lover of flowers, music, tall mountains, fresh water, primitive cultures, and good food. Lester also loved and pondered the quiet spaces in between. He was exceptionally supportive of Vermont Family Forests and of our mission to put forest health, beauty, and resilience first.

After graduating Northwestern University, Lester served the US Ambassador to France at the embassy in Paris, where he met the love of his life, Monique Pia Lazarevitch, while swimming in the large pool at the Bois du Boulogne. From there they explored the world together.

Lester was a man of reason. His search for the truth led him far beyond the Western approach to science. He was deeply inspired by Swami Siddeswarananda of the Sri Ramakrishna Ashram in Paris for whom he translated letters and other works from French into English.

In the early 1960s, Lester and Monique acquired farm and forest lands in Lincoln and focused on conserving their health, beauty, and permanence. Lester and Monique left a remarkable gift in the form of an Ecological Reserve and Research Area conserved by easement in perpetuity and held by the Vermont Family Forests Foundation.

This remarkable legacy will serve as a foundation from which we will explore, cultivate, monitor, and celebrate our common ecological ethnicity in the forested catchments of home. Merci, Lester. À bientôt.

Colby Hill Ecological Project Completes 18th Season

The Colby Hill Ecological Project (CHEP) is dedicated to scientific research, monitoring, and public education. Under Dr. Marc Lapin’s direction, CHEP research associates Jim Andrews, Chris Gray, Greg Borah, Warren King, Barry King, and Sandra Murphy continued their work on forest flora phenology, amphibians and reptiles, small mammals, breeding birds, and forest rewilding.

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### Financial Statement

#### October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015

**Income** ($121,918 total)
- Property Stewardship ($9,804)
- Grants ($5,200)
- Interest ($50)
- Ecoforestry Programs ($30,084)
- Education Programs ($17,185)
- Administrative Services ($2,550)
- Merchandise Sales ($1,275)
- Payroll ($56,272)
- Cost of Goods Sold ($109,212 total)
- Administration and Overhead ($18,550)
- Contracted Services ($31,172)

#### Expenses ($109,212 total)

#### Income ($121,918 total)

#### Financial Statement

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